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of the three continents are determined by exact and thorough comparison of their structure, any explanation of their curious geographical distribution is highly conjectural. It is clear, however, that, as now known, they can no longer be regarded as an exclusively southern group, nor is there any necessity for believing that the South African genus is derived from South America *via* Antarctica. The most reasonable conjecture appears to be that we have here the scattered remnants of a group of very early specialization and wide distribution in pre-Tertiary times, which with the rest of the zalambdodont insectivores and many other archaic types, disappearing before more progressive competitors, found its last place of refuge in the southern continents and the greater tropical islands.

W. D. MATTHEW.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
October 25, 1906.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Nobel prizes were on December 10 awarded as follows: Physics, Professor J. J. Thomson, of Cambridge; chemistry, M. Moissan, of Paris; medicine, Professor S. Ramón y Cajal, of Madrid, and Professor Camillo Golgi, of Pavia; literature, Professor Giosuè Carducci, of Bologna; for the promotion of peace among nations, President Roosevelt.

MRS. SHALER is preparing to write a life of the late Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, which is to be published in the near future. She has made an appeal for letters or reminiscences that would be useful and has asked that these be sent to her at 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

UNDER the auspices of the Peary Arctic Club, Commander Robert E. Peary gave an account of the voyage of the *Roosevelt* and his expedition 'furthest north' at the American Museum of Natural History on Saturday afternoon, December 8. Commander Peary was introduced by Mr. Morris K. Jesup, president of the Peary Arctic Club and of the museum. It is said that some thirty thousand people tried to obtain entrance to the hall and to the informal reception which was held after the address. A dinner was given by the Peary

Arctic Club to Commander Peary at the University Club on December 12.

M. MASCART will retire from the directorship of the Central Bureau of Meteorology in Paris on January 1. He will be succeeded by M. Angot.

PROFESSOR GARIEL has resigned the secretaryship of the council of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, a position which he has held for the past thirty years.

DR. WILLIAM H. BROOKS, director of Smith Observatory and professor of astronomy at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., has received a medal from the Astronomical Society of Mexico, for his discoveries of twenty-five comets.

MR. L. A. PERINGUEY has been appointed to the directorship of the South African Museum, Cape Town, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. W. L. Selater.

At the recent meeting of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics of the Middle States and Maryland, Professor Edwin S. Crawley, of the University of Pennsylvania, was re-elected president.

DR. WILLIAM J. MAYO, of Rochester, Minn., retiring president of the American Medical Association, has recently been visiting Philadelphia as a guest of the dean of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania.

THE fifth lecture in the Harvey Society course will be given by Dr. S. J. Meltzer, of New York, on Saturday evening, December 15, at 8:30 P.M., at the New York Academy of Medicine, on 'The Factors of Safety in Animal Structure and Animal Economy.' All interested are cordially invited to be present.

PROFESSOR PIERRE JANET, of the University of France, has delivered three lectures in the Johns Hopkins University on 'Mind and Medicine.'

DR. HUGO MÜNSTERBERG, professor of psychology at Harvard University, has received leave of absence from November 21, 1906, to January 12, 1907, for a visit to Germany.

DR. HIRAM BINGHAM has sailed for Venezuela, where he will make explorations in the region of eastern Colombia.

MR. A. B. STOUT, of Baraboo, Wisconsin, is working out plans for the preservation of the man mound described in his bulletin on the 'Archeology of Eastern Sauk County.' It is the last of the three mounds of that character, and is said to be the only man mound now known to be in existence.

THE Swiss government has awarded a premium of 5,000 francs to Dr. M. Rickli, of Zurich, and Professor H. Bachmann, of Lucerne, toward the expenses of a botanical expedition to Greenland.

A MONUMENT in honor of Servetus is to be erected at Vienne in the department of Isère where he lived for twelve years. It will be remembered that Michael Servet, who was burned at Geneva in 1533 for his theological opinions, discovered the pulmonary circulation and made important contributions to geography.

DR. WILHELM LOSSEN, formerly professor of chemistry at Königsburg, has died at the age of sixty-seven years.

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* of the death of Dr. Nikanor Chrzonszczewski, sometime professor of general pathology in the University of Kieff, aged seventy; Dr. Lew Pawlow, of St. Petersburg, physician to the Czar and president of the Russian Medical Association, aged fifty-nine; Dr. Plantau, professor of histology in the Medical School at Algiers; Professor Liugu Casati, for many years editor of the *Raccoglitore Medico*, and founder, in conjunction with Professor Ruata, of the Institute for the Orphans of Medical Practitioners at Perugia, aged seventy-six; and Dr. Reincke, who reorganized the public health administration of Hamburg.

THERE will be a civil service examination on December 26, to fill the position of chief of the Laboratory of Physiological Chemistry, in the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, at a salary of \$2,500. On January 4, there will be examinations to fill the positions of laboratory assistants, qualified in chemistry, in the Bureau of Standards, at a

salary of from \$900 to \$1,000; and to fill the position of dairy chemist in the Bureau of Animal Industry, at a salary of \$1,200 to \$1,800.

PROFESSOR RAJNA, of Bologna, is making an appeal for funds to rebuild the observatory there on a new site, and provide it with instruments suited to modern requirements.

PEABODY MUSEUM, Yale University, has received as a gift from Professor Schuchert a collection of antiquities gathered by him during his recent trip through Mexico.

THE annual dinner of the National Geographic Society will be given in Washington December 15. Invitations have been issued by Professor Willis L. Moore, president of the society, and a dinner committee.

THE New York Association of Biology Teachers will hold its next meeting at the High School of Commerce on December 14 at 8:15 P.M. Dr. C. Stuart Gager, director of the laboratories at the New York Botanical Garden, and Dr. M. A. Bigelow, head of the department of biology of Teachers College, will lead a discussion on 'How can secondary school teachers of biology maintain a spirit of investigation while engaged in teaching.'

THE ninth International Congress of Geography will be held at Geneva from July 27 to August 6, 1908.

THE fourth International Congress for the Welfare and Protection of Children will be held in Berlin on May 22-26, 1907.

ACCORDING to foreign papers, the *Journal Officiel* is about to publish statistics of the marriages, births and deaths that took place in France in 1905. The figures show that, while marriages increased as compared with 1904, births fell off, the rate being the lowest on record. In forty-four departments (as compared with thirty-six in the previous year) the deaths were actually in excess of the births, and in certain provinces the difference was enormous, the record being three deaths as against two births. An increase in the death rate helps to aggravate the situation.

Nature states that visitors to the old Swedish cathedral and university town of

Lund will find no little interest in the comparatively recent collections at the ethnographical museum illustrating many phases of rural life. Old peasant houses have been taken down, brought from considerable distances, and set up at Lund, among the buildings being an old church and an inn. Models of interiors of houses with costumed figures of inmates give an excellent idea of rustic conditions, reminding one, though on a smaller scale, of the Cecho-Slavonic museum in the Kinsky Park at Prague.

PROFESSOR CHARLES BASKERVILLE, of the College of the City of New York, has closed a series of six lectures, at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, on physical chemistry under the title of 'The Elements.' The lectures were extensively illustrated with experiments and samples; the subjects treated were the following: (1) Chemistry at Low Temperatures. Stability of the Elements. (2) Chemistry at High Temperatures. Instability of the Elements. (3) Ultra-Violet Light and its Rôle in Chemistry. Production of the Elements. (4) The Methods for Determining the Integrity of a Chemical Element and their Defects. (5) Radium and the Transmutation of the Chemical Elements. (6) Phase Rule and the Elements. Harmonizing of Divergent Views.

THE following letter has been received by the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, in acknowledgment of the receipt of books sent to the California Academy of Sciences as a help toward the replacing of the library destroyed by earthquake and fire:

CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,
SAN FRANCISCO.
1812 GOUGH STREET,
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
November 16, 1906.
MR. EDWARD J. NOLAN, *Recording Secretary and Librarian*,
Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of September 26th reached us some weeks before the books arrived through the Smithsonian Institution.

You have certainly sent us a magnificent gift,

and no pleasanter task has ever been given us than the unpacking and shelving of box after box of such treasures. The shelving capacity of one room in our temporary quarters is taxed to the utmost, and by common consent it is generally referred to as "The Philadelphia Academy room."

We appreciate it all,—your own publications, so complete and so beautifully bound, the magnificent folios, the rare old books, the early volumes of so many valuable sets, the goodly number of works relating to expeditions, some of which we had long desired but had never owned, the great variety of subjects represented by the collection, and the book-plate, the mute reminder of the friends who succored us at the time of our almost overwhelming disaster. And so we thank you, with hearts full of gratitude for your generous gift of books and time and labor.

A formal vote of thanks will be passed at the next meeting of our members, and a copy will be sent you.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) LEVERETT MILLS LOOMIS,
Director of the Museum.

THE New York *Evening Post* says: "The poorly paid college professor has even his financial compensations. No one has more brilliant opportunities to get rich without effort than he. During the present fall he has been kindly offered at least half-a-dozen different positions on the ground floor of a western marble quarry containing nearly a billion feet of marble which is to be taken out and sold at a profit of nearly two billions of dollars, as soon as a little necessary machinery is secured by the sale of a few bonds at about par, with something like an equivalent amount of stock thrown in. When one considers that this investment is to pay 100 per cent. profit annually as soon as it gets its machinery well oiled, it is evident that, as a benefactor to indigent college professors, Carnegie has been easily distanced. For such as have any moral objections to profits of that size, the same company has an alternative in an Ohio coal proposition which is practically certain not to net more than 50 per cent. clear annual gain." The above scheme is prominently supported by the name of a professor in an American university. If this is done without his knowledge, he should take early

opportunity to see that his name is not further used in this way.

WE learn from the *Electrical World* that at the opening of the regular monthly meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, held November 23, Secretary Ralph W. Pope announced that on the evening before upon the invitation of the trustees of the United Engineering Society, the boards of directors of the three founder societies inspected the new building. The office floors are practically complete and ready for occupancy; the auditorium and grand entrance hall on the first floor are yet in the hands of the contractors. All were impressed with the stately character of the building, and all felt satisfaction with the way the architects have carried out the great work. There was an informal dinner at half-past six, and although the meeting was of an informal character, resolutions were passed authorizing the trustees of the United Engineering Society to proceed with arrangements for the formal dedication of the building in April next. The societies will, however, occupy their suites in the building in the course of a month or two. At this informal gathering Chairman Thomas Commerford Martin, of the Building Fund Committee, announced that Mr. George Westinghouse, for himself and as representing the various Westinghouse Companies, had contributed to the land, building and endowment fund the sum of \$50,000, to be equally divided between the three founder societies toward the payment for the land. This was followed by the announcement that the Allis-Chalmers Company had contributed the sum of \$3,500, to be similarly divided between the three societies. This brings the amount pledged toward the payment of the A. I. E. E. proportion of the land to \$155,000, out of \$180,000, which is the sum total. Chairman Martin assured the gentlemen present that he felt that when the building was formally dedicated, so far as the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was concerned, it would assume its responsibility, one-third of the land, free from debt. Mr. Pope said that from his knowledge of the situation he feels quite assured that this will be the case, and that the American Institute

of Electrical Engineers, which twenty years ago was following the trail of the other engineering societies, will assume its responsibilities free from debt and with an income that will assure the handling its part of the building for all time to come, with the generous support of the members of the institute. The building is admirably calculated to accommodate meetings of various societies, from an audience of 1,000 down to 150, and the accommodations are such that all will feel well satisfied personally with the situation, when they come to meet in the building and inspect the offices and the general quarters, the library and all the accessories.

WE learn from the *London Times* that the departmental committee which was recently appointed to "inquire and report what diseases and injuries, other than injuries by accident, are due to industrial occupations, are distinguishable as such, and can properly be added to the diseases enumerated in the third schedule of the workmen's compensation bill, 1906," has now begun its inquiry. The committee proposes to investigate the following diseases and injuries which have been suggested for its consideration, viz., gradual poisoning from the vapor of carbon disulphide, dinitrobenzol, dinitrotoluol and anilin; gradual poisoning from carbonic oxide gas, sulphuretted hydrogen gas, and chlorine gas; alkaloidal poisoning from African boxwood in shuttlemaking; illness set up by nitrous fumes, hydrochloric acid fumes, ammonium chloride fumes and sulphur fumes; compressed air illness (caisson disease); chrome ulceration of the skin; various trade eczemas; fibrosis of the lungs from inhalation of silicious or metallic particles (potter's asthma and grinder's phthisis); pneumonia from inhalation of basic slag dust; miner's nystagmus and miner's 'beat knee' and 'beat hand'; neurosis due to vibration; cardiac dilatation in slate quarries; and glanders. Correspondence relating to the inquiry should be addressed to Frank Elliott, Esq., secretary to the committee at the Home Office, Whitehall, S. W. Anthrax, ankylostomiasis and poisoning by lead, mercury, phosphorus and arsenic

are already included in the third schedule of the workmen's compensation bill, and are not, therefore, within the committee's terms of reference.

PROFESSOR C. H. JUDD, of Yale University, gave an address on 'Visual Perception' before the Washington Academy of Sciences on November 27. The address was illustrated by lantern slides, showing the method of photographing the eyes and giving the results of the study of eye movements. It was discussed by Professor George M. Stratton, of Johns Hopkins University.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. WILLIAM SMITH, of Geneva, has given \$500,000 to Hobart College to endow a college for women.

It is announced that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered to give \$100,000 to Queen's University, Ontario, on condition that the additional sum of \$400,000 be collected.

THE trustees of the late Mr. T. Graham Young have presented to the governors of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College a sum of £10,000 to assist in making provision for the teaching of dyeing and bleaching in connection with the chair of technical chemistry in the college. Mr. Young's trustees have also voted a sum of £850 for the equipment of the laboratory.

THE majority of the committee of alumni of the Andover Theological Seminary has handed in a report adverse to the removal of the seminary to Cambridge and its affiliation with Harvard University.

It is reported that the University of Warsaw will be removed to Saratoff and the Warsaw Polytechnic School to Rostoff-on-the-Don. This would leave Russian Poland without a university.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ALEXANDER W. EVANS has been promoted to fill the Eaton professorship of botany in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

DR. S. M. LINDSAY, professor of sociology in the University of Pennsylvania, has been

called to a newly-established chair of social legislation at Columbia University.

JOHN L. STEWART, professor of economics and history at Lehigh University, has been appointed director of the library of that institution to succeed the late Professor William H. Chandler.

THE registration of the University of Maine for the present year shows an attendance of 56 in the College of Agriculture, and 391 in the College of Technology, with 29 in the faculty of the former college and 35 in the faculty of the latter. The new members of the faculty and changes in the various scientific departments follow:

W. M. Munson, Pomologist in the Experiment Station.

W. D. Hurd, Acting Dean of the College of Agriculture.

A. C. Jewett, and W. K. Ganong, promoted to professorships in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

W. J. Morse, Vegetable Pathologist in the Experiment Station.

A. W. Gilbert, promoted to Assistant Professor of Agronomy.

P. A. Campbell, Instructor in Animal Industry.

R. W. Seabury, Instructor in Biological and Agricultural Chemistry.

C. B. Brown, Instructor in Civil Engineering.

E. E. Moots, Instructor in Mathematics.

H. A. Emery, Instructor in Civil Engineering.

M. J. Dorsey, Instructor in Horticulture.

C. J. Carter, Instructor in Machine Work.

G. F. Wittig, Instructor in Electrical Engineering.

A. C. Whittier, Assistant Chemist in the Experiment Station.

J. C. Colcord, Assistant Chemist in the Experiment Station.

F. Balentine, Tutor in Biology.

H. W. Bearce, Tutor in Physics.

MR. R. P. GREGORY, of St. John's College, has been appointed senior demonstrator in botany in Cambridge University.

AT Cambridge University the Cavendish professor of experimental physics and the Lucasian professor of mathematics have appointed Mr. F. Horton, fellow of St. John's College, to be Clerk Maxwell student in succession to Mr. O. W. Richardson, of Trinity College.